

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF A CONSOLIDATED, CONSISTENT VISION SCREENING PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism, poor health, and delayed or
2 limited access to health care and preventive health services
3 continue to hinder students' academic success and schools'
4 ability to meet the needs of the whole child; and
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6 WHEREAS, school based health programs support the
7 Department of Education in achieving student, school, and system
8 success by providing school health services to public school
9 children in complex areas across the State; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Education works with other state
12 agencies, partnering health care and education organizations and
13 interest groups, and families to improve attendance, behavior,
14 and course marks; and
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16 WHEREAS, these improvements are achieved by a network of
17 school-community partnerships to improve access to and
18 coordinate wrap-around services and address non-school factors
19 that impede student success; and
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21 WHEREAS, through school based health and community
22 partnerships, the Departments of Health and Human Services have
23 identified the extent of services provided within each
24 department that are targeted to public school children and the
25 need to coordinate internal departmental activity and cross-
26 departmental efforts to develop sustainable school based health
27 services; and
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1 WHEREAS, vision services are in high demand for school-aged
2 children; and
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4 WHEREAS, approximately one in five children will naturally
5 need glasses to participate fully in school, yet thirty-five
6 percent of children have never seen an eye care professional;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, in 1989, vision screening was mandated for certain
10 age groups in Department of Education schools; and
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12 WHEREAS, however, since the Department of Health program
13 for vision screening was defunded in 1997, there have not been
14 consistent recommendations for best practice methodology and
15 follow-up; and
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17 WHEREAS, it has become clear that further support and
18 guidance is necessary to ensure best practice methods of vision
19 screening; and
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21 WHEREAS, the school based health programs and services
22 provided to public school children through a network of school-
23 community partnerships lends an effective means to continue
24 collaboration between health, human services, and education
25 policymakers and health care providers to achieve sustainable,
26 achievable, and comprehensive improvements to the environments
27 in which community members learn, live, work, and play, so that
28 academic and health outcomes of Hawaii's public school students
29 can be achieved; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
32 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
33 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health,
34 Department of Human Services, Department of Education, and
35 Department of the Attorney General are requested to convene an
36 interdepartmental working group to address the lack of a
37 consolidated, consistent vision screening program in public
38 schools for children in the State; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include the
41 following:
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- (1) A representative from the Department of Health;
- (2) A representative from the Department of Human Services;
- (3) A representative from the Department of Education;
- (4) A representative from the Department of the Attorney General;
- (5) A representative from Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn;
- (6) A representative from the Hawaii Primary Care Association;
- (7) A representative from Project Vision Hawaii;
- (8) A representative from the District 50 Hawaii Lions;
- (9) A representative from the Rotary International District 5000; and
- (10) Health care provider representatives, including but not limited to pediatricians, primary care physicians, eye care professionals, advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses, ophthalmologists, optometrists, and opticians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Education are requested to enlist the assistance of the Department of the Attorney General in identifying barriers to consolidated, consistent vision screening in public schools, and proposing amendments to remove barriers in their respective statutes and administrative rules; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit their findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislative Reference Bureau no later than December 15, 2019; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
2 Bureau is requested to submit a final report of the working
3 group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed
4 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
5 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
9 of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Director of Health,
10 Director of Human Services, Superintendent of Education,
11 Attorney General, Executive Director of Hawaii Keiki: Healthy
12 and Ready to Learn, Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
13 Primary Care Association, Executive Director of Project Vision
14 Hawaii, District Governor of the District 50 Hawaii Lions, and
15 District Governor of the Rotary International District 5000.
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OFFERED BY:

Clarence K. Kishikawa

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